

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7207

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS GABORONE 1480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SCUL, BC

SUBJ: MINISTER OF EDUCATION DISCUSSES UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS

1. MINISTER OF EDUCATION K. P. MORAKE ADDRESSED STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY STAFF MEMBERS REGARDING RECENT UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS ON OCTOBER 27. ACCORDING TO BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS EDITION OF OCTOBER 29, THE MEETING WAS PROMPTED BY RECALL OF BATSWANA AND SWAZI STUDENTS FROM LESOTHO. SIXTY-NINE BATSWANA STUDENTS RETURNED SUNDAY BY TRAIN FROM THE ROMA CAMPUS.

2. MORAKE TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND HAVE APPOINTED A PLANNING COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO HOW THE SWAZI AND BOTSWANA GOVERNMENTS MAINTAINED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND (UBLS) EXISTS IN LEGAL TERMS "UNTIL CERTAIN STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN." HE NOTED THAT "THE FACT THAT LESOTHO DID NOT SEND A DIPLOMATIC NOTE WARNING THE TWO COUNTRIES OF ITS COMTEMPLATED STEPS SURPRISED BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND".

3. MINISTER MORAKE CLAIMED THAT LESOTHO DID NOT COOPERATE ON THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTHER TWO CAMPUSES AND "IT APPEARED THAT SHE WANTED ONLY THE ROMA CAMPUS TO BE DEVELOPED." HE SAID THAT "THE ISSUE OF THE EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR ROGERS WAS USED AS AN EXCUSE BY
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THE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT." HE CLAIMED THAT "LESOTHO MEMBERS

OF THE COUNCIL (UNIVERSITY COUNCIL) WERE PART AND PARCELK OF
THE DECISION TO REAPPOINT VICE-CHANCELLOR CYRIL ROGERS FOR
ANOTHER FOUR YEARS FROM AUGUST 1." HE WENT ON TO STATE
BOTSWANA POLICY THAT "WE HAVE ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALTHOUGH
THE THREE GOVERNMENTS CAN EXPRESS THEIR QUESTIONS TO THE
UNIVERSITY, BOTSWANA STILL BELIEVES THAT A DEGREE OF AUTONOMY
SHOULD BE ACCORDED TO THE UNIVERSITY."
THOMSEN

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